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SUBJECT Marine School in Gdynia/Morals and Morale of Youth/SP Influence.

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

1. "Gdynia has the following schools:

- a. Four primary schools
- b. One vocational secondary school for dressmaking, a girl's school (Gimnazjum Krawieckie).
- c. One vocational secondary school for mechanics (Gimnazjum Mechaniczne)
- d. One vocational secondary school for electricians (Gimnazjum Elektryczne)
- e. Marine School, divided into Faculties of Navigation and Mechanics.

All primary schools in Poland are divided into two main categories: those with religious tuition [sic], and those run by the Society of Friends of Children, (TFD - Towarzystwo Przyjaciół Dzieci), without tuition. Schools with religious tuition are still more numerous in Poland (and in Gdynia itself) owing to the pressure of parents who insist on sending their children to schools where religion is taught. This happens in spite of the fact that pupils of the TFD schools enjoy many privileges not enjoyed by pupils of other schools. First, the TFD schools receive special governmental allocations to improve the quality of meals given the children at school, and, consequently, these children are better fed than others.

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ships are so small that they only suffice for cigarettes (a package of 'Zeglarze' brand cigarettes costing Zl. 3.80). The Marine School is located in Czerwonych Kosynierow Street in Gdynia. Apart from the regular curriculum it also offers special courses for older sailors, mainly for skipper and skilled mechanics. The character of the school was greatly changed in the Spring of 1952, at which time it was renamed 'Technikum' and the program of studies was extended to five years to admit pupils with a lower degree of previous education. Now boys can enter school after completing seven years of primary school. The entrance examination is very strict, and many candidates are rejected on political grounds. Even some sons of worker-fathers are not accepted if the fathers are not Party members and not considered reliable enough. The Director of the Cadres Department of the Ministry of Shipping, a woman called Maria Kosinska, usually supervises the examinations and asks many questions herself. One of her typical questions is whether the candidate believes in God or materialism, and which one of the two he believes to be better for humanity. A boy may be rejected by her if he admits to attending church on Sundays. Political indoctrination occupies a very important place in the program of the school, but the technical side is not neglected. To the contrary, pupils must become proficient in technical subjects. Studies take up to 45 hours a week, and include, apart from technical subjects, general knowledge of mathematics, chemistry and physics, Polish, Russian and English languages. History and 'Modern Poland' studies actually come under political education and are prepared from this particular point of view. Boys who have completed secondary schools are admitted to the third year of the 'Technikum', those with only primary school to the first year.

3. "Pupils live in the school, and rise at six a.m.; breakfast is at seven a.m., and studies begin at eight a.m. lasting until five p.m., with two breaks: one for 'elevenzas' [this is usually coffee and a bun] and lunch. Supper is at six p.m., and from seven to nine p.m. students are expected to do their preparation for the following day. All lights are turned off at the school at halfpast ten. The boys have practically no time for their private hobbies and occupations.
4. "Morale of Youth: The morale and the morals of the youth (under direct Communist control) are very bad. The ZMP in Gdynia has its headquarters at 10 Lutego Street, and the ZMP section of the Merchant Marine on Weglowa Street. Both these houses are known throughout the town as the scenes of noisy parties, drinking, and dissolute behavior. It seems that the ZMP boys and girls have lost all conception of propriety, manners and morals. They do not respect the authority of their parents, and in this attitude they are encouraged by their Party instructors. This, of course, does not apply to quite a large faction of ZMP youth composed of decent youngsters who have joined because it offers them their only chance in life. Their allegiance is a purely formal gesture. They do not consider changing their way of life as the others do, but, unfortunately, it is the latter group which gives tongue to the organization.
5. [REDACTED] as were many inhabitants of Gdynia, at the behavior of 'Service to Poland' (SP) brigades in the harbor area. There is enormous immorality and hooliganism among these youths. Service in the SP has a bad effect on the boys and girls, but it is compulsory. Even those who claim exemption from manual labor and physical training, for reasons of health, are obliged to participate in political and theoretical training. [REDACTED] every boy and girl in Poland automatically becomes a member of the SP between the ages of 16 and 19 years. Those at school become members in the eighth class of primary school, and retain membership until the end of the 11th class [grade?]. In their case, the class and not the age is the factor. The SP has a multi-grade organization ranging from the smallest units in schools, factories or village

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communities, through higher commands covering towns, districts and, finally, county commands. The whole organization is responsible to the Ministry of National Defense, and its character is modelled on military lines. Members have ranks similar to military ranks. For the purposes of actual work, they are organized in brigades which may be sent to work in localities far away from their native villages; in fact, this is what usually happens, because the aim is to keep children as far from their parents as possible. SP members are issued denim uniforms by the State, which they must wear while working. Wearing of uniforms in off-duty hours is, however, not forbidden. In fact, the authorities rather encourage it. Many young people find it expedient to wear a cheap uniform all the time, saving their ordinary clothes. More and more of these uniforms are seen in the streets. The styles of winter and summer uniforms are the same, but the summer ones are denim, the winter ones cloth [wool?]. The uniform is a khaki shirt buttoned to the neck and tied with a belt, and, for girls a dark blue skirt, for boys, dark blue cloth trousers in the winter and khaki denim ones in the summer - gathered at the ankle with a strap. The caps are khaki. The shoulder-straps [epaulettes?] on the shirts are bordered with red ribbon and bear the insignia of the rank. SP have no obligation to salute army officers in the streets, but it belongs to the 'tradition' of the organization to do so, which gives the organization an even more para-military appearance than is officially intended."

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